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EXAMINER

EWART, JAMES D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2683

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/696,980	Applicant(s) HIND ET AL.	
	Examiner James D. Ewart	Art Unit 2683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 28 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 39-50 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 18, 20-22, 24-26, 28, 29, 31 and 33-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 19, 23, 27, 30 & 32 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 28 November 2005 have been fully have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naddell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,613,213) in view of Shi (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0192301) and further in view of Schwinkle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0069019).

Referring to claims 1 and 8, Naddell et al teaches in a mobile communication device, a method of selecting a communication network which provides one or more communication services for the mobile communication device (Column 1, Lines 41-46), the method comprising the acts of: performing a scanning operation to identify one or more communication networks that support a voice communication service in a geographic coverage area (Column 1, Lines 27-33 and Column 2, Lines 27-30); determining which communication networks make a data communication service available to the mobile communication device in the geographic coverage area (Column 1, Lines 27-33 and Column 2, Lines 27-30) based on information communicated by each communication network of the availability of services(Column 2, Lines

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

11-15), but does not teach assigning priority to a network that makes the data communication service available over a network that fails to make the data communication service available. Shi teaches assigning priority to a network that makes the data communication service available over a network that fails to make the data communication service available (0018 and 0027).

Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Naddell et al with the teaching of Shi of assigning priority to a network that makes the data communication service available over a network that fails to make the data communication service available to automatically designate the wireless network that can best support the user's call without the user needing to know which network is being used (0018). Naddell et al and Shi teach the limitations of claims 1 and 8, but do not teach wherein availability is determined based on an attempt to access the service. Schwinkle teaches wherein availability is determined based on an attempt to access the service (0033,0035 & 0037). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Naddell et al. and Shi with the teaching of Schwinkle wherein availability is determined based on an attempt to access the service to inform the client when service is not available using a blocked signal (0038).

Referring to claim 38, Naddell et al teaches in a mobile communication device, a method of selecting a communication network comprising the acts of: waiting for an expiration of a network rescan timer (Column 1, Lines 44-47 and Column 2, Lines 39-41); after the expiration of the network rescan timer; performing a scanning operation to identify one or more communication networks that support a voice communication service in a geographic coverage

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

area of the mobile communication device (Column 1, Lines 27-33 and Column 2, Lines 27-30); determining whether any of the communication networks make a data communication service available to the mobile communication device (Column 1, Lines 27-33 and Column 2, Lines 27-30); if no communication network makes the data communication service available to the mobile communication device, resetting the network rescan timer (Column 2, Lines 40-46), if a communication network makes the data service available to the mobile communication device: selecting or assigning priority to it over a network that fails to make the data communication service available from a network selection list (Column 5, Lines 12-15 and Figure 2), but does not teach assigning priority to a network that makes the data communication service available over a network that fails to make the data communication service available used for automatic network selection by the mobile communication device. Shi teaches assigning priority to a network that makes the data communication service available over a network that fails to make the data communication service available (0018 and 0027) used for automatic network selection by the mobile communication device (0018). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Naddell et al with the teaching of Shi of assigning priority to a network that makes the data communication service available over a network that fails to make the data communication service available used for automatic network selection by the mobile communication device to automatically designate the wireless network that can best support the user's call without the user needing to know which network is being used (0018). Naddell et al and Shi teach the limitations of claim 38, but do not teach wherein availability is determined based on an attempt to access the service. Schwinkle teaches wherein availability is determined based on an attempt

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

to access the service (0033,0035 & 0037). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Naddell et al. and Shi with the teaching of Schwinkle wherein availability is determined based on an attempt to access the service to inform the client when service is not available using a blocked signal (0038).

Referring to claims 2 and 9, Naddell et al further teaches wherein the data communication service comprises at least one of an electronic mail (e-mail) service, a short messaging service, and an Internet access service (Column 1, Lines 29-33).

Referring to claim 3, Naddell et al further teaches the act of determining which communication networks make the data communication service available based on information communicated by each communication network of the availability of services(Column 2, Lines 11-15), but does not teach wherein availability is determined based on an attempt to access the service wherein the attempt includes sending a request to access the data communication service through the communication network, if access to the data communication service is granted in response to sending the request, determining that the communication network makes the data communication service available and if access to the data communication service is not granted in response to sending the request, determining that the communication network does not make the data communication service available. Schwinkle teaches wherein availability is determined based on an attempt to access the service (0033,0035 & 0037) wherein the attempt includes sending a request to access the data communication service through the communication network

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

(0033), if access to the data communication service is granted in response to sending the request, determining that the communication network makes the data communication service available (0036) and if access to the data communication service is not granted in response to sending the request, determining that the communication network does not make the data communication service available (0038). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Naddell et al. and Shi with the teaching of Schwinkle wherein availability is determined based on an attempt to access the service wherein the attempt includes sending a request to access the data communication service through the communication network, if access to the data communication service is granted in response to sending the request, determining that the communication network makes the data communication service available and if access to the data communication service is not granted in response to sending the request, determining that the communication network does not make the data communication service available to inform the client when service is not available using a blocked signal (0038).

Referring to claim 4, Shi further teaches wherein operation of the one or more cellular telecommunication networks is governed by Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM) standards (0022).

Referring to claim 5, Schwinkle further teaches wherein the data communication service is available if the mobile communication device is able to access the data communication service in response to the attempt (0036), and the data communication service is unavailable if the

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

mobile communication device is unable to access the data communication service in response to the attempt (0037).

Referring to claim 6, Shi further teaches wherein the act of assigning priority to the network that makes the data communication service available comprises the further act of assigning priority to the network in the network selection list for use by the mobile communication device in an automatic network selection method (0018).

Referring to claim 11, Naddell et al teaches determining which of the communication networks make a data communication service available (Column 2, Lines 11-15) and Schwinkle teaches determining availability based on being granted or unable to access the data communication service (0036-0038).

3. Claims 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naddell et al., Shi and Schwinkle and further in view of Parker (U.S. Patent No. 6,603,755).

Referring to claim 7, Shi teaches prioritizing those networks that make the data communication service available over those networks that fail to make the data communication service available (0018), but does not teach creating a prioritized list of communication networks. Parker teaches creating a prioritized list of communication networks (Column 2, Line 64 to Column 3, Line 4 and Column 7, Lines 32-34 and Figure 5 & 6). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to

combine the art of Naddell et al, Shi and Schwinkle with the teaching of Parker of creating a prioritized list of communication networks to take into consideration business relationships established with other service providers (Column 7, Lines 47-50).

Referring to claim 12, Shi teaches prioritizing those networks that make the data communication service available over those networks that fail to make the data communication service available (0018), but does not teach creating a prioritized list of communication networks wherein the prioritized list is for use by the mobile communication device in an automatic network selection method. Parker teaches creating a prioritized list of communication networks (Column 2, Line 64 to Column 3, Line 4 and Column 7, Lines 32-34 and Figure 5 & 6) wherein the prioritized list is for use by the mobile communication device in an automatic network selection method (Column 2, Lines 35-39). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the art of Naddell et al, Shi and Schwinkle with the teaching of Parker of creating a prioritized list of communication networks wherein the prioritized list is for use by the mobile communication device in an automatic network selection method to take into consideration business relationships established with other service providers (Column 7, Lines 47-50).

4. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naddell et al., Shi and Schwinkle and further in view of Haverinen et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0110481).

Referring to claim 10, Naddell et al., Shi and Schwinkle teach the limitations of claim 10, but do not teach wherein operation of the cellular transceiver is governed by Global System for Mobile (GSM) and General Packet Radio Service (GPRS). Haverinen et al. teaches wherein operation of the cellular transceiver is governed by Global System for Mobile (GSM) and General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) (0015). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Naddell et al., Shi and Schwinkle with the teaching of Haverinen et al. wherein operation of the cellular transceiver is governed by Global System for Mobile (GSM) and General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) to provide efficient data transmission (0002).

5. Claims 13-16, 18, 20-22, 24-26, 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naddell et al., in view of Shi in view of Parker and further in view of Schwinkle.

Referring to claim 13, Naddell et al teaches in a mobile communication device, a method of creating a list of communication networks (Figure 1) comprising the acts of: scanning to identify a plurality of communication networks which support a voice communication service in a given geographic region (Column 1, Lines 27-33 and Column 2, Lines 27-30); identifying one or more communication networks that make a data communication service available to the mobile communication device (Column 1, Lines 27-33 and Column 2, Lines 27-30), but does not teach assigning priority to a network that makes the data communication service available over a network that fails to make the data communication service available. Shi teaches assigning

priority to a network that makes the data communication service available over a network that fails to make the data communication service available (0018 and 0027). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Naddell et al with the teaching of Shi of assigning priority to a network that makes the data communication service available over a network that fails to make the data communication service available to automatically designate the wireless network that can best support the user's call without the user needing to know which network is being used (0018). Naddell et al and Shi teach the limitations of claim 13, but do not teach creating a prioritized list of communication networks wherein the prioritized list is for use by the mobile communication device in an automatic network selection method. Parker teaches creating a prioritized list of communication networks (Column 2, Line 64 to Column 3, Line 4 and Column 7, Lines 32-34 and Figure 5 & 6) wherein the prioritized list is for use by the mobile communication device in an automatic network selection method (Column 2, Lines 35-39). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the art of Naddell et al and Shi with the teaching of Parker of creating a prioritized list of communication networks wherein the prioritized list is for use by the mobile communication device in an automatic network selection method to take into consideration business relationships established with other service providers (Column 7, Lines 47-50). Naddell et al, Shi and Parker teach the limitations of claim 13, but do not teach wherein availability is determined based on an attempt to access the service. Schwinkle teaches wherein availability is determined based on an attempt to access the service (0033,0035 & 0037). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

Naddell et al., Shi and Parker with the teaching of Schwinkle wherein availability is determined based on an attempt to access the service to inform the client when service is not available using a blocked signal (0038).

Referring to claim 14, Parker further teaches wherein: the prioritized list comprises a plurality of sub-lists (Figure 9); and the act of assigning comprises the further act of storing identities of the one or more communication networks identified to make the data communication service available in a higher priority sub-list of the prioritized list (Column 2, Line 64 to Column 3, Line 4 and Figure 9). The manufacturer or service provider prioritizes network either as home, partner, preferred, enhanced favored, favored and neutral and forbidden.

Referring to claim 15, Parker further teaches for each communication network: identifying whether a communication network is a forbidden communication network (Figure 9); and wherein the act of assigning comprises the further act of assigning the communication network a higher priority in the prioritized list if the communication network is not a forbidden communication network (Figure 9). All the classes above forbidden are in a higher class than forbidden.

Referring to claim 16, Parker further teaches wherein the act of identifying whether the communication network is a forbidden communication network comprises the further act of comparing the communication network to entries of a list of forbidden communication networks (Column 7, Lines 44-47).

Referring to claim 18, Parker further teaches identifying whether the communication network is in the prioritized list (Figure 9); reassigning a priority to the communication network in the prioritized list if the communication network is a forbidden communication network (Figure 9). The preference level of forbidden is reassigned the classification of forbidden.

Referring to claim 20, Parker further teaches further comprising the acts of: for each communication network: identifying whether the communication network is a preferred communication network (Column 7, Lines 35-39, Column 8, Lines 7-13 and Figure 9); and if the communication network is a preferred communication network and makes the data communication service available, then assigning the communication network a higher priority in the prioritized list than other communication networks that make the data communication service available but are not preferred communication networks (Figure 9).

Referring to claim 21, Parker further teaches wherein the act of identifying whether the communication network is a preferred communication network comprises the act of comparing the communication network to entries in a communication network list (Column 7, Lines 35-39, Column 8, Lines 7-13 and Figure 9).

Referring to claim 22, Parker further teaches wherein the communication network list comprises one or more sub-lists (Figure 9) established by one or more of: a user of the mobile communication device; a manufacturer of the mobile communication device (Column 2, Line 64 to Column 3, Line 4 and Figure 9); and an operator of a communication network. The

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

manufacturer or service provider prioritizes network either as home, partner, preferred, enhanced favored, favored and neutral and forbidden.

Referring to claim 24, Parker further teaches comprising the acts of: for each communication network: if the communication network supports the data communication service (Figure 9): determining whether the communication network is known (Figure 9); and if the communication network is known: assigning the known communication network a higher priority in the prioritized list than any unknown communication network (Figure 9). Examiner equated the forbidden networks with networks that don't provide the service (Column 3, Lines 1-4).

Referring to claim 25, Naddell et al further teaches wherein the data communication service comprises an electronic mail (e-mail) service (Column 1, Lines 29-33).

Referring to claim 26, Parker further teaches wherein the prioritized list comprises a plurality of sub-lists and the act of assigning the communication network priority comprises the further act of: placing the known communication network in a higher priority sub-list of known communication networks over a sub-list of unknown communication networks (Figure 9).

Referring to claim 29, Parker further teaches wherein the mobile communication device comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of: a cellular mobile station with GPRS capabilities, a wireless-enabled Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), a wireless Internet appliance, a

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

data communication device with telephony capabilities (Column 7, Lines 32-34), a portable e-mail pager, and a wireless modem.

Referring to claim 31, Parker further teaches wherein the list of forbidden communication networks comprises a Forbidden Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) list (Figure 9).

6. Claims 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naddell et al in view of Parker.

Referring to claim 33, Naddell et al teaches in a mobile communication device, a method for creating a list of communication networks (Figure 2) comprising the acts of: scanning to identify one or more communication networks which support a voice communication service in a given geographic region (Figure 2 and Column 1, Lines 27-33 and Column 2, Lines 27-30) and determining whether the communication network makes a data communication service available to the mobile communication device, but does not teach for each communication network identified: determining whether the communication network is a known communication network of the mobile communication device; and if the communication network is a known communication network and makes the data communication service available to the mobile communication device, then assigning the communication network a higher priority in the prioritized list than a communication network that is an unknown communication network and automatically selecting a network for communication. Parker teaches for each communication network identified: determining whether the communication network is a known communication

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

network of the mobile communication device (Figure 9 and Column 2, Line 64 to Column 3, Line 4 and Column 7, Lines 32-38); and if the communication network is a known communication network and makes the data communication service available to the mobile communication device (Column 5, Lines 35-52), then assigning the communication network a higher priority in the prioritized list than a communication network that is an unknown communication network (Figure 9 and Column 2, Line 64 to Column 3, Line 4 and Column 7, Lines 32-38) and automatically selecting a network for communication (Column 2, Lines 30-34). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Naddell et al with the teaching of Parker of for each communication network identified: determining whether the communication network is a known communication network of the mobile communication device; and if the communication network is a known communication network and makes the data communication service available to the mobile communication device, then assigning the communication network a higher priority in the prioritized list than a communication network that is an unknown communication network and automatically selecting a network for communication to take into consideration business relationships established with other service providers (Column 7, Lines 47-50). Although forbidden falls beneath unknown networks, Examiner finds the case where no forbidden networks are identified to meet the limitation.

Referring to claim 34, Parker further teaches wherein the act of determining if the communication network is known comprises the further act of comparing the communication

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

network to entries of a list of communication networks (Column 7, Lines 35-39, Column 8, Lines 7-13 and Figure 9).

Referring to claim 35, Parker further teaches wherein: the prioritized list comprises a plurality of sub-lists including one or more sub-lists established by the user of the mobile station, an operator of a communication network, and a manufacturer of a mobile station (Column 7, Lines 51-53 and Figure 9); and the act of assigning the communication network a higher priority in the prioritized list comprises the act of placing the communication network in a higher priority sub-list of the prioritized list (Figure 9). The manufacturer or service provider prioritizes network either as home, partner, preferred, enhanced favored, favored and neutral and forbidden.

7. Claims 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naddell et al and Park and further in view of Schwinkle.

Referring to claim 36, Naddell et al and Parker teach the limitations of claim 36, but do not teach wherein the data communication service is available if the mobile communication device is able to access the data communication service in response to an attempt to access the data communication service through the communication network, and wherein the data communication service is unavailable if the mobile communication device is unable to access the data communication service in response to the attempt. Schwinkle teaches wherein the data communication service is available if the mobile communication device is able to access the data communication service in response to an attempt to access the data communication service

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

through the communication network (0035 & 0036), and wherein the data communication service is unavailable if the mobile communication device is unable to access the data communication service in response to the attempt (0037). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Naddell et al and Parker with the teaching of Schwinkle wherein the data communication service is available if the mobile communication device is able to access the data communication service in response to an attempt to access the data communication service through the communication network, and wherein the data communication service is unavailable if the mobile communication device is unable to access the data communication service in response to the attempt to inform the client when service is not available using a blocked signal (0038).

Referring to claim 37, Parker further teaches wherein: the prioritized list comprises a plurality of sub-lists (Figure 9); and the act of assigning higher priority to a known communication network that makes the data communication service available comprises the further act of placing the network in a higher priority sub-list of the prioritized list (Column 2, Line 64 to Column 3, Line 4 and Figure 9). The manufacturer or service provider prioritizes network either as home, partner, preferred, enhanced favored, favored and neutral and forbidden.

8. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naddell et al., Shi, Schwinkle and Parker and further in view of Haverinen et al.

Referring to claim 28, Parker further teaches wherein the communication networks comprise GSM communication networks (Figure 6), where the GSM communication networks do not support the data communication service (Column 3, Line 1-4), but does not teach the communication networks comprise GSM/GPRS. Haverinen et al. teaches the communication networks comprise GSM/GPRS (0015). Therefore at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Naddell et al., Shi, Schwinkle and Parker with the teaching of Haverinen et al. wherein the communication networks comprise GSM/GPRS to provide efficient data transmission (0002).

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claim 17, 19, 23, 27, 30, and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Referring to claim 17, the references cited do not teach further comprising the act of: adding the communication network to a forbidden network list if a communication failure occurs with the communication network.

Referring to claim 19, the references cited do not teach wherein: wherein the prioritized list comprises a plurality of sub-lists; wherein the act of reassigning priority to the communication network comprises the further acts of: moving the communication network from one sub-list of the prioritized list to another sub-list of the prioritized list; removing the

communication network from the prioritized list; and adding the communication network to a different sub-list of the prioritized list.

Referring to claim 23, the references cited do not teach wherein the preferred list comprises a plurality of sub-lists, including a sub-list established by a user, a sub-list established by a manufacturer, and a sub-list established by an operator of a communication network, and wherein the method further comprises the acts of: for each communication network: wherein the act of determining if the communication network is a preferred communication network comprises the further act of determining on which sub-list of the communication network list the communication network is listed; and wherein the act of assigning comprises the further act of assigning the communication network a higher priority in the prioritized list than other communication networks if the network is on the sub-list established by the user.

Referring to claim 27, the references cited do not teach wherein the prioritized list comprises a plurality of sub-lists and the method comprises the further act of: if the communication network is unknown and does not make the data communication service available: assigning the communication network a lower priority in the prioritized list by placing it in a lower priority sub-list comprising known voice-capable communication networks under a sub-list of unknown communication networks that make the data communication service available.

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

Referring to claim 30, the references cited do not teach wherein the prioritized list comprises four sub-lists including, in decreasing order of priority: a User Preferred Public Land Mobile Network List (U-PPLMN), an Operator Preferred Public Land Mobile Network List (O-PPLMN), an Unknown Voice/Data List, and an Unknown Voice-Only List.

Referring to claim 32, the references cited do not teach wherein the list of communication networks that is used for comparing comprises a User Preferred Public Land Mobile Network (U-PPLMN) list and an Operator Preferred Public Land Mobile Network (O-PPLMN) list.

10. Claims 39-50 are allowed.

Referring to claim 39, the references cited do not teach in a mobile communication device, a method of selecting a cellular network for communications comprising the acts of: performing a scanning operation to identify one or more cellular networks in a geographic coverage area; identifying which of a plurality of communication services, if any, are made available by each cellular network for the mobile communication device; determining which cellular network makes the largest number of preferred communication services available to the mobile communication device; ***and assigning network selection priority to the cellular network that makes the largest number of preferred communication services available to the mobile communication device.***

Referring to claim 44, the references cited do not teach in a mobile communication device, a method of selecting a communication network comprising the acts of: identifying one or more communication networks available to facilitate mobile communications with the mobile communication device in a geographic coverage area; identifying one or more communication services that are made available with each communication network; determining which communication network provides the best communication services for the mobile communication device based at least in part on the identified availability of communication services in each communication network; ***by determining that the communication network has a greater or equal number of communication services available to the mobile communication device than any other identified communication network***; and selecting or assigning priority to the communication network that is determined to provide the best communication services for the mobile communication device (Column 5, Lines 12-15); registering with the selected or prioritized communication network.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Brody et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,670,899 discloses load balancing for cellular radiotelephone system.

Choi U.S. Patent No. 6,278,882 discloses call control method in base station of CDMA mobile radio communication system.

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683

Dorenbosch et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,907,237 discloses communication system that provides backup communication services to a plurality of communication devices.

Eibling et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,487,415 discloses method for initiating call blocking based upon pilot fraction.

Khafizov et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,826,218 discloses method and apparatus for selecting a cost effective call blocking probability distribution in the design of a new cellular network.

Li et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,459,902 discloses system and method for selectively blocking or dropping calls in a telecommunications network.

Li et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,269,245 discloses cellular communication system employing dynamic preferential channel allocation.

Yang et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,896,573 discloses channel assignment selection reducing call blocking and call cutoff in a cellular communication system.

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Application/Control Number: 10/696,980

Art Unit: 2683


however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James D. Ewart whose telephone number is (571) 272-7864. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7am - 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on (571)272-7872. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300 for regular communications and (571) 273-8300 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571)272-2600.

Ewart
December 9, 2005



WILLIAM TROST
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600